

# Resource Teams

*Providing Specialized Attention to Your Community's Needs*

Georgia Quality Growth Partnership

To assist Georgia's communities with incorporating "smart growth" best practices, the Georgia Quality Growth Partnership (GQGP), working through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), can make available "resource teams," comprised of volunteers who are experts in key fields. These teams will visit an area upon request and give special attention to whatever growth and development issues are needed.

The resource team typically spends a week in the community, working intensively to develop ideas and solutions for improving the community through implementing innovative planning practices and "smart growth" concepts. Team recommendations are presented to local officials at the end of the visit.

To be selected for a resource team visit, a community must demonstrate strong leadership, commitment, and resources to implement smart growth solutions. Recent resource team visits have included Dublin, Dalton/Whitfield County, and the Georgia Highway 400 Corridor. So far the visits are producing "real world" successes, as communities are following through on ideas generated by the teams.

DCA coordinates the team visits for the GQGP, handling logistics and preparation of the final report. DCA staff meets with local officials about two months prior to each visit to find out what is needed in a particular community. Team members are then recruited in order to achieve an ideal mix of skills for addressing local issues. The typical resource team is composed of ten to twelve volunteers from the various GQGP organizations, the state university system, and public or private sector planning, design or development organizations. Work with a community does not end with the resource team visit. GQGP organizations stay in touch with the communities, offering follow up assistance and encouragement.

Typical issues addressed during a resource team visit include:

- Review of local development regulations for barriers to smart growth;
- Improving walkability in the community;
- Finding opportunities for mixed use and traditional neighborhood development;
- Upgrading the appearance of strip commercial corridors;
- Reducing public incentives that promote sprawl-type development;
- Taking advantage of local amenities to foster balanced economic growth;
- Encouraging revitalization of the downtown and older intown neighborhoods; and
- Finding opportunities for infill development and reuse of under-utilized structures.

The community's costs for hosting a resource team visit are minimal:

- Team members are not paid, but meals, accommodations, and hospitality for the visit are typically provided by the community. DCA or other GQGP organizations cover all other expenses, including travel costs of team members.
- The community is asked to provide meeting facilities for the visit, including a work space for the team (with phones and copy machine) and locations for a stakeholder input meeting and the final presentation to the public.
- In return, the community receives free consultant services from some of the leading planning and growth management experts in the state. The resource team recommendations are compiled into a final report, provided to the community approximately six weeks after the visit.

For more information about GQGP Resource Teams, or to be placed on the e-mail list to be notified of future visits, please contact: **Jim Frederick • 404-679-3105 • [jfrederi@dca.state.ga.us](mailto:jfrederi@dca.state.ga.us)**



## Georgia Quality Growth Partnership

The Georgia Quality Growth Partnership (GQGP) is a collaboration among diverse public and private organizations formed out of the desire to coordinate their efforts at promoting “quality growth” approaches throughout the State of Georgia. The primary purpose of the GQGP is to facilitate local government implementation of quality growth approaches by:

1. Disseminating objective information on the various approaches.
2. Developing tools for implementing these approaches.
3. Sharing of best practices learned from other places, times, and cultures.
4. Promoting acceptance of quality growth by the general public and community leaders.

Founded in March, 2000, the GQGP has grown to more than forty organizations, each contributing time, in kind services, or financial resources to fostering Partnership efforts.

### Guiding Principles

The GQGP member believe that fostering livable communities requires innovative solutions that:

1. Ensure equitable access for all citizens to a range of options for education, transportation, housing, employment, human services, culture, and recreation.
2. Create opportunities for citizens to learn more about community planning and actively encourage their involvement in public decision-making.
3. Respect and protect our natural resources – wildlife, land, water, air and trees.
4. Shape appealing physical environments that enhance walkability and positive social interaction.
5. Recognize that community decisions have an impact on neighboring jurisdictions and, therefore, must be made from a responsible regional and statewide perspective.
6. Incorporate practices learned from our local experience as well as from other communities and cultures.
7. Preserve and enhance our cultural and historic places for future generations.
8. Provide for the efficient and economical use of public infrastructure.
9. Employ the principles of sustainability and balance to ensure the economic viability of all communities and to enhance the state’s economic competitiveness.



## GQGP PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)  
Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership (ANDP)  
Atlanta Regional Consortium for Higher Education (ARCHE)  
Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)  
Cool Communities of Georgia  
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)  
DNR Historic Preservation Division  
Georgia Chamber of Commerce  
Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA)  
Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA)  
Georgia Department of Industry, Trade & Tourism  
Georgia Forestry Commission  
Georgia Municipal Association (GMA)  
Georgia Power Company  
Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB)  
Georgia Recreation and Park Association  
Georgia Rural Development Council (GRDC)  
Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA)  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Georgia Planning Association (GPA)  
Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation  
Greater Atlanta Homebuilder's Association (GAHB)  
GSU Andrew Young School of Policy Studies  
Home Builders Association of Georgia (HBAG)  
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)  
Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce  
Georgia Regional Growth Management Initiative  
Regional Business Coalition of Metropolitan Atlanta (RBC)  
Research Atlanta  
Sierra Club, Georgia Chapter  
Southface Energy Institute  
The Georgia Conservancy  
The Nature Conservancy  
Trees Atlanta  
Trust for Public Land (TPL)  
UGA Alliance for Quality Growth  
Urban Land Institute (ULI)